Digitized by Khilafat Library Rabwah

JANUARY, 1968

# The Ahmadiyya GAZETTE

## THE HOLY QURAN ON THE EXISTENCE OF GOD

"Their Messengers said, 'Are you in doubt concerning Allah, Maker of the heavens and the earth? He calls you at He may forgive you your sins, and grant you respite till n appointed term'." (14:11)

2 "The Originator of the heavens and the earth! How can He have a son when He has no consort, and when He has created verything and has knowledge of all things? Such is Allah, our Lord. There is no God but He, the Creator of all things, o worship Him. And He is Guardian over everything. Eyes annot reach Him but He reaches the eyes. And He is the In-omprehensible, the All-Aware." (6:102-104)

) "And with Him are keys of the unseen; none knows them but He. And He knows whatsoever is in the land and in the a. And there falls not a leaf but He knows it; nor is there rain in the deep darkness of the earth, nor anything green dry, but is recorded in a clear Book." (6:60)

"Or, Who answers the distressed person when he calls pon Him, and removes the evil and makes you successors e earth? Is there a God besides Allah? Little is it that reflect." (27:63)

"And this Quran is not such as might be devised by any one except Allah. On the contrary, it fulfils that which before it and is an exposition of the Law of God. There no doubt about it. It is from the Lord of the worlds." (10:38)

## SAYINGS OF THE PROMISED MESSIAH

(Peace be on him)

FAITH is the power that grants bravery and courage to a person. The revered Companions, may God be pleased with them all, showed its precedent in their lives. What made them sure of getting a reward by accompanying a helpless and powerless person like the Holy Prophet, peace be on him? The external eye was showing nothing but this, that his company would make all the nation their enemy, the result of which was known evidently that a mountain of troubles and distresses would fall upon them and crush them, and they would be lost. But there was another eye which considered these afflictions and difficulties as nothing. Rather it considered the death in this way as a means of comfort and happiness. It saw that which was hidden and far away from these external eyes. And that was the believing eye and the believing power that manifested all these troubles and pains extremely worthless. At last the faith won and showed a miracle that he who was mocked at, and who was taken as helpless and powerless, took them by means of faith to the unknown place. The reward and recompense that was obscure before became so much obvious that the world witnessed it and confessed that this was the fruit of the same (faith). On account of faith the Companions neither were tired nor exhausted. Rather they performed many magnificent deeds by the moving power of faith. And even then they professed that they did not do as they should have done. Faith granted them that power which considered the giving of heads and sacrificing their own selves as a minor thing." (Al-Hakam, January 31, 1901)

## EXCERPTS FROM THE SERMON OF HAZRAT KHALIFATUL MASIH THIRD

(delivered on November 24, '67)

FTER reciting Fateha and verses relevant to Ramadhan Hazrat Khalifatul Masih said that the Holy Quran is a per-ect law. A person who believes in it and tries to act upon it, s inspired with the spirit to gain more spirituality and pro-ided with more means. God becomes his Companion and uide always. Again it consists of strong arguments and wis-om. Thus it satisfies those who judge everything by reasons. it was not so such people would have stumbled. So Allah s provided with means of progress for such people as well. lah has, therefore, reminded the Muslims of this sacred nth in which the revelations of such Quran were started. d then every year Gabriel revised the revealed portion of t in it.

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih emphasized that a man should nefit by the blessings of Ramadhan, recite the Quran, say igatory and superrogatory prayers, help the needy and sympathise with them, show affection to all the human beings and save his tongue and other organs from evils that displease God. As a result God will certainly grant him His guidance, evident signs and light.

Mentioning the sick and those who are on journey during this month Hazrat Khalifatul Masih said that they should benefit by the permission and should not keep fast. Rather they should keep them later on. It is because "He desires to give facility and He desires not hardship for you". (2:186)

In the end Hazrat said that the spiritual gains achieved once should be preserved by glorifying our God and gratifying Him. They should never be attributed to our own efforts. The m e we will glorify and thank Him the more He will bless us. And thus unending avenues of blessings and progress —the spiritual and physical both —will be opened to us and Satan will meet failure in his attempts to misguide us.

HE AHMADIYYA GAZETTE is the monthly organ of The Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam in the United States of America. It is edited and published by the Chief Missionary Maqbool Ahmad Qureshi, 637 Randolph St. Dayton, Ohio, 45408.

Digitized by Khilafat Library Rabwah

# EID-UL FITR SERMON

(delivered by the chief missionary Jan.1,'68)

NO DOUBT that the festivals furnish occasions of popular pageant and recreation as the participants repair from all near points to attend the festivity. But ours is a festival which comes in the end of the month of fasting and which has a religious significance only. We celebrate this festival to express our gratitude to our Creator that He, out of His infinite Mercy, granted us power and ability to pass the Sacred Month successfully and discharge our obligations in the right way. We are thankful to Him that He has enabled us to keep fasts, to remember Him in our daily and nightly prayers, to invoke blessings upon the Holy Prophet, peace be on him, to recite the Holy Quran, to give alms and charity to the poor, to sympathise with other human beings, and so on and so forth. As we see this past, we see its glory and magnitude and its high impact on our character, attitude towards human beings, especially the needy ones, and relationship with our God. Our personal experience has brought us near to the realization of the pangs of hunger and thirst and made us understand the condition of our less fortunate brethren. The recitation of the Holy Quran has once again reminded us of the duties and responsibilities that have fallen on our weak shoulders. The unity and accord with which the Muslims, all over the world, have kept their fasts has reminded us once again of our fraternal ties and the religious bonds that exist among us. This unity must have a binding and unifying effect upon us. These bonds should encourage us to close our ranks and files, to create love and fraternity amongst ourselves and to be sympathetic towards each other. This united act of fasting reminds us again that we should not forget our other unfortunate brethren and human beings who are still groping in the dark and who are deprived of this blessing, who lack contact and connection with this electric-like current which if put on can infuse in their minds as well, the heavenly Light which can remove the darkness altogether.

This sacred month has drawn our attention to the fact that we should have a two-sided link, one with God, the Almighty, and other with mankind. The highest quality granted to our Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace be on him, was mentioned in the revealed words of God-that he, on the one hand rose high up to the nearness of God so much that he was one with God, and on the other he descended to mankind so near that he was one with them. I think it will be the best fruit of the Month of Fasting if we learn this lesson and assimilate it in our every day life, i.e. to resolve that we will establish the ties of love and affection with our God and fulfil our obligations towards Him and we will maintain our warm and sympathetic relationship with His creatures and will remain always humble and meek. If we do so we will certainly gain and achieve our success, InshaAllah.

The spiritual and physical exercise has taught us as well that we will keep ourselves busy and active and will equip ourselves with the spiritual knowledge, religious education and human understanding. We will not lead an idle life and will not lag behind others. These exercises point to the fact that only reliance on God without exploring the resources of nature is not a part of our religion. Our religion teaches us to tie the knee of the camel first and then rely on God. The secret of the muslims' decline and downfall lies in their lethargy, inactivity and false reliance on God. They thought that only their prayers would do everything and God will grant them as a result every desired thing. But they were wrong. God says that a man will have nothing but the fruits of his own efforts. I, generally, explain to my friends in this way that if anyone likes to have a child and he prays to his God throughout his life that he be granted a child but he does not marry at all, his prayers will never be heard. Why? Because he has not used the proper course. He had to marry first and then to pray to God. Similarly every good fruit which a man wants to have must be preceded by a good and correct action at a proper time. If one

'Continued on page 4

# CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS

ON January 13 and 14, 1968, consultative meetings of Ameers, Board of Directors and Budget Committee and Missionaries were held. The following brothers took part in them:

Syed Jawad Ali from Washington, S. I. Husain from Chicago, Syed Abdur Rahman from Cleveland, Abdur Rahman from Baltimore, Abdul Karim from Chicago, Bashir Afzal from New York, Jamal Ahmad from Cleveland, Mohammad Sadiq from Newark, Monir Ahmad from St. Louis, Mohammad Sadiq from Waukegan, Zubair Salahud Din from Milwaukee and Chief Missionary from New York took part in the deliberations. Altogether, 6 sessions took place, out of which three were those of Ameers (Presidents). and one session each of Board of Directors, Budget Committee, and Missionaries. M. A. Qureshi, Chief Missionary presided the meetings. The following decisions were arrived at in the meeting of the Ameers:

## PROPAGATION

We should try to reform ourselves first and then approach the individuals, especially the literate and intelligent youths.

We should distribute literature as much as possible in the form of circulars, leaflets, books, etc. Every circle should try to have one mimeographic machine to publish circulars, leaflets, etc.

In our literature much emphasis should be laid on fulfilment of prophecies in our age, especially that of Dr. Dowie which took place in America, on Living Religion in which God speaks even now, on the efficacy of prayers, on second advent of Jesus Christ according to the Bible and Islam.

'Philosophy of Teachings of Islam" should be distributed in great number. Books should be presented to the libraries.

Public meetings should be held especially for non-members.

## EDUCATION

Locally we should hold classes and make our members well-versed in the knowledge of Islam and Ahmadiyyat. Pronunciation of Arabic and the Holy Quran should be taught. Members should study the book "The Teachings of Islam" as many times as possible.

To achieve this end a class should be held one week before Convention Every branch of the mission should send one representative at least. This class will be held if at least ten students are available otherwise not.

The course will be prescribed and made known by the Chief Missionary.

The members who say prayers behind non-Ahmadies or violate the principles of Islam should be brought to the notice

Continued on page 3

Digitized by Khilafat Library Rabwah

Consultative meetings...continued

of the Chief Missionary who will take proper action, will fix the period for the reformation. If the desired result is not achieved he will recommend expulsion of such person to the Center.

## FINANCES

Financial secretaries and Ameers should contact the members and receive the subscriptions.

To avoid misappropriation, receipt books, should be printed by the Secretary Brother Syed Jawad Ali and be bought by the Missions. Receipts should be in triplicate. One receipt will go to the donors, one to the Secretary and one will remain with local mission.

Members should be informed not to subscribe without receipts to avoid misuse. The receipt books should be sent, when finished, to the Chief Missionary.

For having uniform system of record the Secretary will send forms in triplicate which will be filled every month. One copy will to to the Chief Missionary, one to the Secretary and one will remain with the mission.

Syed Jawad Ali, the Secretary, will remind the members once a month of their dues at proper time.

Due to the importance of the post of Financial Secretary, he should be elected only after his membership of one year.

Along with receiving subscriptions we should lay more emphasis on religious education of members and on bringing them to the mosque.

## SOCIAL REFORMATION

Parents and guardians should educate and train their children and bring them up in Islamic traditions. They should be exhorted to marry with Ahmadies only. While marrying the standard of would-be-husband or wife should be kept in view. The boys should be educated, brought up well, made skillful and capable to earn their livelihood. Thus they can be made more acceptable for the Ahmadi girls.

In this connection the question of unemployment was discussed. Every effort should be made to eliminate it.

A committee consisting of Shukar I. Husain, Abdur Rahman from Baltimore, Zubair Salahud Din from Milwaukee, Ali Razaa from Kenosha and Mohammad Sadiq from New York was made to get rid of it.

## PRESIDENTS

Presidents hereafter will be called Ameers to avoid misunderstanding. Ameers should send reports regularly by the tenth of every month. They should arrange the budget of their members pertaining to their Monthly Subscriptions, etc.

## CIRCLES

Three circles will remain under their respective missionaries where they have been stationed. Pittsburgh Circle will be supervised by the Chief Missionary.

## CONVERSION

Every effort should be made to have more converts. But before their conversion they must be told all the problems which they will have to face, and responsibilities which they will have to bear, as it is the quality that matters and not the quantity alone. They should be asked to pledge their monthly subscriptions. Initiation forms should be sent to the Chief Missionary through the incharge of the Circle.

# MESSAGE OF HAZRAT KHALIFATUL MASIH THIRD

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih III, may God strengthen him with His Succour, sent the following telegram:

"Eid Mubarak to all please pray for success of Jalsa (Annual Gathering) and blessings of Allah.

# SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members are requested to be regular in their subscriptions, of the month, of Wasiyyat, of Tahrik-i-Jadid or Waqfi Jadid, of Fazli Omar Foundation or other pledges which they made.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. We announce regretfully the demise of Brother Mohammad Bashir of Chicago in November, 1967, and Br. Saud Ahmad of Washington. May God grant them Paradise and grant the bereaved families patience!

2. Br. B. Usama of Detroit and his wife have gone to Pakistan to attend the Annual Gathering. We wish them happy and save journey back after getting the blessings of the gathering.

3. The test of the Holy Quran is taking place on January 28, 1968. Sisters and brothers should take the test. Questions for the test are being sent to the Ameers.

# GET YOUR OFFICIAL CALENDAR OF ISLAM FOR THIS YEAR

An attractive 11x17 inch wall calendar published by the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam is now available. This is printed in two colors and shows a very good recent photograph of Hazrat Ameerul Momineen, Khalifatul Masih Third, with his excellent short explanation of the five pillars of Islam.

This calendar is designed to be hung on your wall with any standard picture hangers available at the dime store. Or it will fit a standard 11x17 frame. A perfect conversation starter for your home, that will arouse the curiosity of your guests and give you an opening for Tabligh. Or give them as gifts.

In addition to the standard Arabic lunar calendar and corresponding English calendar now in use, the Ahmadiyya calendar includes the "Hijri-Shamsi" calendar developed by the late Hazrat Khalifatul Masih 2nd. This calendar combines both the solar and Islamic calendars. This is perhaps the first time our American Ahmadies have been introduced to the "Hijri-Shamsi" calendar. For information and price, write to

Brother Maqbool Ahmad Qureshi,
637 Randolph Street, Dayton, Ohio, 45408

Digitized by Khilafat Library Rabwah

Eid-ul-Fitr Sermon... continued

sows apples one will not get oranges. Similarly if one sows them at the wrong time one will not have the required result. We must, therefore, realise and try to understand first the correct method, correct means and proper time and then try our best to work hard for that, Then we may gain and have the required fruits, otherwise not. If we are not getting the required results then there must be something wrong in our approach. We should, therefore, understand this law of nature that we have to utilise our intellect, energy, force, proper means at proper time and then await the results. If we do not get our aim then we should consult others who are better gifted in knowledge and understanding than we, and at the same time pray to God to be guided by Him and granted power to do accordingly.

Here I may add that as our achievements and fruits of this world are realised after great efforts and hardships, similarly religious fruits and spiritual gains can never be gotten but after proper and correct actions and hardships. The Promised Messiah, peace be on him, has drawn our attention to this divine law many times in his books that both worlds, this one and the spiritual one, resemble each other and go parallel to each other. That is why he has inferred many lessons from the laws of nature. Both worlds have their suns, moons, stars and heavens and earth. Both require proper materials, proper means and ways to reach the required aim. That is why our God, the All-Knowing, has drawn our attention many times in the Holy Quran to the material system of the world.

Availing of this opportunity I may read here the message of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih III, may God strengthen him with His help, which he sent to Qadian, district Gurdaspur, India, at the last Annual Gathering held in November, 1967. As you know, the residents of Qadian are those who were left behind at the time of the migration and partition in 1947 at the risk of their lives to protect the sacred places of the Movement. You can well imagine their role of chivalry and love for the religion. This message to them, therefore, m ans a lot and has great significance. I, therefore, would like to end my sermon by conveying its translation to you on this special occasion, so that you may also try to follow its spirit and be blessed. It runs as follows:

My dear and near ones! You who have gathered today in the sacred town of Qadian, may God keep you (and us all) steadfa st in our right belief and empower us to do such righteous actions as have no deterioration in it so that you may be included in his pious group who is "Living in the House" (i.e. the House of the Promised Messiah, peace be on him, (whether it is material house at Qadian or spiritual house of his true followers), and may He keep you in His protection! May the Angels descend from Heaven for your help and succour! Today the world does not recognise you nor does it honour you. But may you get a place of honour and love in the eye of God! May He protect you from every trouble and suffering, save you from every grief and distress and remove all the worries. May He grant you satisfaction of heart and spirit and keep your minds always happy and pleasant with the spirit of contentment and sacrifice. May God, the Light of Heaven and earth, wrap you always in the sheet of His Light! May you be brought up in the gardens of His pleasure in this world and in the Hereafter!

Allah had made a promise to Muhammad, peace be on him, of a great spiritual son — the Promised Messiah and the Guided one. He gave glad tidings that through his magnetic and divine power, this son's ever-sacrificing spirit in the cause of Allah and His Messenger, will cause Islam to spread once again in the world. It will again win the hearts of the world and over-come them by manifesting its beauty and its benevolence and this victory will remain till Resurrection.

The invincible arguments and enlightening reasonings are the manifestations of Islamic beauty. They are the beautiful teachings with w hich the Promised Messiah, peace be on him filled your laps. Never be unmindful of them and do not forget that all the world is to share them equally. In the light of these arguments try to understand the Holy Quran and benefit by its blessings yourselves. Strive hard to make your children real lovers of this beauty and fond of this spiritual bliss. May the negligent world be attracted to this real Beauty and may it circumambulate it and the Holy Quran in rapture and ecstasy! May it break the idols of its mind and turn away from its artificial beauty. Make Him — the Real Beauty — its Qibla and motive, and be pure in heart and spotless in thinking.

The actions performed in accord with the teaching of the Holy Quran are the manifestations of Islamic Benevolence. They are done for the welfare of mankind and for their sympathy. God has made you the best of nations. He wants to see you as servants of the people. Treat everyone well. Meet smilingly. Make sympathy and sharing others' misfortunes your habit, and mutual brotherhood and love your garment. The world may be your enemy, but you should not be an enemy of anyone, nor should you have animosity. Keep the example of the Holy Prophet, peace be on him, which is mentioned in the Quran, i.e. "Haply thou wilt grieve thyself to death for sorrow after them if they believe not," before your eyes, and spend your days and nights and every moment of your life in the cause of your Lord and in winning the hearts of the world.

The moment of winning the last victory over the minds is approaching. God is in wrath, and we are extremely anxious for the world. A great responsibility has fallen on the shoulders of our elder and younger generations. The world is in need of precedent and none else but we can offer the right precedent of Islam. We, because we have pledged by putting hands over the hands of the Promised Messiah, the spiritual son of the Holy Prophet, peace be on him, that we will give religion priority over the world.

If we really prefer religion to the world, if we become servants of the world in fact, if the world really finds and sees the manifestations of Islamic Benevolence in our active lives, then certainly the world will be able to recognise its Lord and will bow on His threshold with its mind and spirit after having His Recognition and Knowledge.

So rise and wake up! Leave the idleness and gird your loins Reveal the Manifestations of Islamic beauty and its benevolence to the world by your prayers, knowledge, action, good treatment, sympathy and sharing of grief and win the hearts of the world for your Lord, the Great, and be His beloved ones. On Him alone we rely and from Him the Power.

Your loving and affectionate, hungry of your prayers,
M. N. Ahmad, Head of the
Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam

## ANSARULLAH'S VICE PRESIDENT

In his letter no. 8202 dated December 21, 1967, Vice President (Central) Hazrat Mirza Mubarak Ahmad has appointed Brother Maqbool Ahmad Qureshi as Vice President of Ansarullah in U.S.A.

## CHIEF MISSIONARY IN DAYTON

According to the in struction of Center the Chief Missionary Brother Maqbool Ahmad Qureshi has made Dayton his Headquarters temporarily. His address is:

637 Randolph Street, Dayton, Ohio, 45408